

Parks & Recreation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Final



Committee Chair (Interim): Symra Brandon

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

2:30 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Health and Public Works & Transportation

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Legislator Symra Brandon will be participating remotely from Yonkers Public Library, 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers, New York 10701

With a quorum present, Chair Brandon called the meeting to order at 2:50 PM.

Others in Attendance: Guests: County Executive's Office; Ellen Hendricx, Director of Research BOL: Legislator Woodson-Samuels, Legislator Pierce, Legislator Williams Johnson, Legislator Imamura, Legislator Smith (Remote), Lisa Hochman, Marcello Figueroa, Beth LoBello, Jill Axelrod, Dayana Gomez, and Shatika Parker

Present: Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan and Committee Vice-Chair Parker

Excused: Committee Chair Tubiolo

Remote: Committee Chair Brandon

MINUTES APPROVAL

September 13, 2023 at 10 AM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Barr, the above item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Brandon, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan and Committee Vice-Chair Parker

Excused: Committee Chair Tubiolo

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[ACT-2023-185](#) ACT-Lead-Free Parks Act

AN ACT establishing enhanced testing for lead in potable water systems at Westchester County Parks.

SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, PARKS & RECREATION AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Guests: Law Dept.: Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz and Senior Assistant County Attorney Shawna MacLeod; Dept. of Health: Chris Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Health; Dept. of Parks: First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia; Dept. of Labs & Research: Rob Hilbrandt, Division Head, Environmental Chemistry Laboratory; County Executive's Office: Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation & Sustainability

Ms. MacLeod discussed that the Act would establish a process for monitoring and remediating drinking-water quality in the County's public parks, to ensure that drinking water remains potable. The monitoring and testing- and, if levels actionable are found, the warning, remediation, and abatement- will be carried out by the County Department of Health, in conjunction with the County Department of Labs and Research and the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation as appropriate. Importantly, while State requirements for potable water mandate that lead concentration not exceed 0.015 milligrams per liter of water, given children's particular sensitivity to any amount of lead exposure, this ACT establishes an even lower threshold for lead concentration: if the concentration of lead is greater than 0.005 milligrams per liter, then the water will need to be treated to bring the lead concentration down.

Legislator Williams Johnson asked why there is a three-year time line to get this up and running. Mr. Tartaglia said he thinks it could be done in one year.

The amendment was motioned by Legislator Parker seconded by Legislator Barr, the committee approved the change of the language in Section 6 of the legislation from "completing the first round of testing in County Parks over a period of up to three years to the effective date of this act" to "up to one year."

Legislator Barr suggested posting signs in the bathrooms indicating that the water there has not been tested for drinking. Mr. Tartaglia said he would look into that. Mr. Ericson noted that the water in the bathroom sinks does meet state standards for potable water, but has not been tested for the extra thing we are putting in with this law. Chair Pierce suggested posting signs at drinking stations stating that "for added protection, this water has been tested for lead." Mr. Tartaglia said the Parks Department will work with the Health Department on the appropriate language.

On motion of Legislator Maher, seconded by Committee Chair Brandon, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Brandon, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan and Committee Vice-Chair Parker

Excused: Committee Chair Tubiolo

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Legislator Barr, seconded by Committee Chair Brandon, the above item was adjourned at 4:12 PM. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Committee Chair Brandon, Legislator Barr, Legislator Maher, Legislator Nolan and Committee Vice-Chair Parker

Excused: Committee Chair Tubiolo